

The American Archivist Reviews Section

Report to the Editorial Board

Prepared by Bethany Anderson

February 8, 2018

Summary

Over the past year, I continued to expand the Reviews Section, both in terms of the number of reviews published in each issue, and encouraging more reviews of open access publications and reports. Eight reviews were published in 80:1, the Spring/Summer 2017 issue, and eleven reviews were published in 80:2, the Fall/Winter 2017 issue. Eleven reviews were also submitted for issue 81:1.

At the Editorial Board meeting in Portland (July 26, 2017), Gloria Gonzalez (Reviews Portal Coordinator) and I presented a proposal to create a podcast with interviews of authors of publications and creators of digital tools, resources, etc. Since the board meeting, we have begun collaborating with members of the Publications Board on a joint podcast proposal, which was submitted to our Council liaisons for review on January 23, 2018. If the proposal is approved by Council, the podcast team hopes to officially begin collecting interviews at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Reviews

Eleven publication reviews were published issue 80:2, Fall/Winter 2017:

- ***Latinos in Libraries, Museums, and Archives: Cultural Competence in Action! An Asset-Based Approach***, reviewed by Margarita Vargas-Bentancourt
- ***Building Trust in Information: Perspectives on the Frontiers of Provenance***, reviewed by Creighton Barrett
- ***Pedagogies of the Image: Photo-archives, Cultural Histories, and Postfoundational Inquiry***, reviewed by Katrina Windon
- ***Teaching with Primary Sources***, reviewed by Rachel Grove-Rohrbaugh
- ***Preserving Family Recipes: How to Save and Celebrate your Food Traditions***, reviewed by Kira Dietz
- ***Digital Preservation Essentials***, reviewed by Dan Noonan
- ***Rogue Archives: Digital Cultural Memory and Media Fandom***, reviewed by Jeremy Brett
- ***City of Remembering: A History of Genealogy in New Orleans***, reviewed by Tanya Zanish-Belcher

- ***Becoming a Trusted Digital Repository***, reviewed by Sibyl Schaefer
- ***Office of the Secretary: Evaluation of Email Records Management and Cybersecurity Requirements, ESP-16-03***, reviewed by David Bearman
- ***Privacy and the Past: Research, Law, Archives, Ethics***, reviewed by Elena Danielson

Eleven reviews are in process for issue 81:1, Spring/Summer 2018:

- ***The Science of Managing Our Digital Stuff***, reviewed by Dorothy Waugh
- ***Life on Ice: A History of New Uses for Cold Blood***, reviewed by Anne-Flore Laloë
- ***Stirrings in the Archives: Order from Disorder***, reviewed by Matthew Kirschenbaum
- ***Diversity, Dialogue and Sharing: Online Resources for a More Resourceful World***, reviewed by J.J. Ghaddar
- ***Research in the Archival Multiverse***, reviewed by Geoffrey Yeo
- ***North of Dixie: Civil Rights Photography Beyond the South***, reviewed by Eden Orelove
- ***Appraisal and Acquisition Strategies***, reviewed by Adrien Hilton
- ***Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge***, reviewed by Pamela Pierce
- ***Participatory Heritage***, reviewed by Rory Grennan
- ***Managing Local Government Archives***, reviewed by Dennis Roman Riley
- ***The Data Librarian's Handbook***, reviewed by Kayla Siddell

Twelve reviews (including one review essay) are in process for issue 81:2, Fall/Winter 2018. Anticipated reviews for this issue include: *The Silence of the Archive* (Facet, 2017); *Moving Image and Sound Collections for Archivists* (SAA, 2017); *Future-Proofing the News: Preserving the First Draft of History* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017); *Agents of Empire: How E.L. Mitchell's Photographs Shaped Australia* (Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2017); *Feminists Among Us: Resistance and Advocacy in Library Leadership* (Library Juice Press, 2017); and *Digital Preservation Metadata for Practitioners* (Springer, 2017); among others.

Highlights

Podcast Proposal

Since the 2017 Editorial Board meeting in Portland, Gloria Gonzalez and I contacted Publications Board members Nicole Milano and Colleen McFarland Rademaker to explore the possibility of collaborating on a joint podcast proposal. The group organized a conference call on August 23, 2017, and included Ashley Levine from Artifex Press and incoming journal editor Cal Lee. Everyone was in agreement to move forward with a collaborative proposal and podcasting project.

Between August and December, the group tested tested several systems for recording interviews, discussed logistics, and worked on the joint proposal. The team shared drafts of the proposal with both *The American Archivist* Editorial Board and the Publications Board, as well as Teresa Brinati and Matt Black at SAA, to gather feedback. On January 23, 2018, the proposal was submitted to the boards' Council Liaisons (Amy Cooper Cary and Erin Lawrimore). Pending a few revisions per our Council Liaisons, the proposal will be ready to be formally submitted to Council for review and approval in the next few weeks.

The podcast, *<in-context>: The Podcast on Archives and the People Behind Them*, will consist of monthly 20-minute episodes (and occasional hour-long episodes) consisting interviews with authors of publications and creators of archival software and technologies. We believe the podcast will enable us to engage the profession with the archival literature and resources in ways that highlight SAA publication initiatives and complement the publication reviews in *The American Archivist* and software/digital project reviews on the Reviews Portal. The interviews will be hosted on a WordPress site (linked from the SAA website, under the Publications drop-down menu). Interviews by Gloria and myself will also be posted on the Reviews Portal (in addition to the podcast website). If the proposal is approved, the team hopes to begin collecting interviews at the 2018 Annual Meeting. See attached podcast proposal for more information.

Publication Review Guidelines

The guidelines for submitting reviews on the SAA site (which are linked on the AA site under "Submissions") were updated on July 5, 2017 (this was noted at the Editorial Board meeting in Portland, July 26, 2017): <https://www2.archivists.org/american-archivist/publication-review>. The guidelines were also renamed "Publication Review Guidelines" (previously "Book Review Guidelines") to better encompass the types of works to be reviewed and to be more inclusive of evolving and emerging modes and formats of scholarly publication.¹

Expansion of Reviews

As noted above, the reviews have been expanded in several ways, including by number, types of publications reviewed, and by including more international reviewers. Recent reviews of publications have covered such topics as photo-archives and memory; feminism in LIS; digital preservation; teaching with primary sources; newspaper archives; and bioarchives. Reviews represent publications from an array of publishers, including Rowman and Littlefield, SAA, Facet

¹ However, this language still needs to be updated in a few places, including in the online version of the journal (e.g., in the search results).

Publishing, ALA, and various university presses (such as MIT Press and the University of Chicago Press). In addition to reviewing publications in open access formats, a goal is to review publications also available through various digital open access publishing platforms, such as the University of Michigan's digitalculturebooks (<http://www.digitalculture.org/>).

PeerTrack

Starting with issue 81:1, I have been using PeerTrack for submissions of reviews. Abigail Christian facilitated discussions with Allen Press to make adjustments in PeerTrack in order to accommodate review submissions. However, Allen Press will need to make some more adjustments and clarifications to further streamline the editorial management process for reviews. Cal Lee and I will be discussing this further with Allen Press on February 13, 2018.

Reviews Portal

See Gloria Gonzalez's report (pages 5-8).

Goals and Discussion for Board

- Include more review essays
- Explore including reviews of older, classic publications in the archival literature that bring forward new perspectives (e.g., re-reviewing *Archives Power* during its 10-year anniversary in 2019)
- Include more reviews of publications published through various digital open-access platforms
- Include reviews of publications in other languages
- Consider recruiting a few more editors and/or recruit editors-at-large for the Reviews Portal
- Reviews of exhibits
- Add new types of content to the Reviews Portal (including also posting podcast interviews conducted by Gloria and myself), as well as several short reviews of a recent publication (e.g., similar to "[Short Takes](#)" in the journal *Signs*)

***The American Archivist* Reviews Portal February 2018 Update**

(Prepared by Gloria Gonzalez, Reviews Portal Coordinator)

Table of Contents

1. [Goals for 2018](#)
2. [Overview of Reviews Since SAA 2017](#)
3. [Increasing Outreach](#)
 - a. [Call for Reviewers](#)
4. [Statistics](#)
 - a. [Average Views Per Day by Month and Year](#)
 - b. [All Time Views by Month and Year](#)
 - c. [2017 Visitors by Top 20 Countries](#)

Goals for 2018

Our goals for 2018 are to **increase outreach** by creating a repeatable reviewer recruitment campaign with documentation, **become a multimedia platform** by launching a new podcast and publishing 6 episodes, and use the website stats from 2017 to **outline strategies for increasing new site visitors and visits**.

Overview of Reviews Since SAA 2017

Since *The American Archivist* Editorial Board met at SAA 2017 in Portland last August, 4 reviews were posted to the portal. These reviews all emphasize technology in archives, digital projects, and tools that support archives access and description. Rose Sliger Krause reviewed *Spanning Our Field Boundaries*, a deliverable of an IMLS-funded project that examines areas that cause cross-field collaboration to be difficult. Blake E. Relle reviewed his experience with DuraCloud, open-source software that archivists use to store and manage digital content. Matthew Strandmark reviewed *Explore Chicago Collections*, an online portal for digital collections, finding aids, and online resources created by the Chicago Public Library and other Chicago Collections Consortium members. And Anna-Sophia Zingarelli-Sweet reviewed, Photogrammar an online portal that provides access to

over 170,000 photographs generated by the United States Farm Security Administration and Office of War Information (FSA-OWI) between 1935 and 1945. These reviews are linked below in chronological order.

1. [Spanning Our Field Boundaries: Mindfully Managing LAM Collaborations](#)
2. [DuraCloud](#)
3. [Explore Chicago Collections](#)
4. [Photogrammar](#)

Increasing Outreach

To support our goal to increase outreach in 2018, a new call for reviewers was created and shared via professors at UCLA, the University of Michigan, and UT Austin. With feedback, the call below is revised for 2018.² Gloria is working with Bethany to create and document a comprehensive outreach plan. A spreadsheet used to track where and when the call is shared can be found [here](#).

Call for Reviewers

Are you interested in writing a review for *The American Archivist* Reviews Portal? We need reviewers to assess digital collections and exhibits, as well as digital tools, platforms, and other resources that archivists use. We strongly encourage reviews from new professionals and students. Our editors are available to help writers throughout the entire review process.

Reviews of software, websites, or other digital tools and resources should be 500 to 750 words. Microreviews of monographs, journal articles, blogs or apps should be 100 to 200 words. Guidelines for writing reviews are available on the [Reviews Portal](#). Reviewers can select a resource or work with the reviews coordinator to choose a resource from our [list of review ideas](#). Here are a few resources from the list that we would love to publish and share reviews about:

- [Chicana Por Mi Raza](#)
- [Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive](#)
- [The Syrian Archive](#)

² Call for Reviewers was revised per Bethany, 2/7/18

Please check out and share our new [list of all SAA affiliated blogs](#). If you are interested in authoring a review, or have any questions, please contact the Reviews Portal Coordinator, Gloria Gonzalez (gloria@zepheira.com).

Statistics

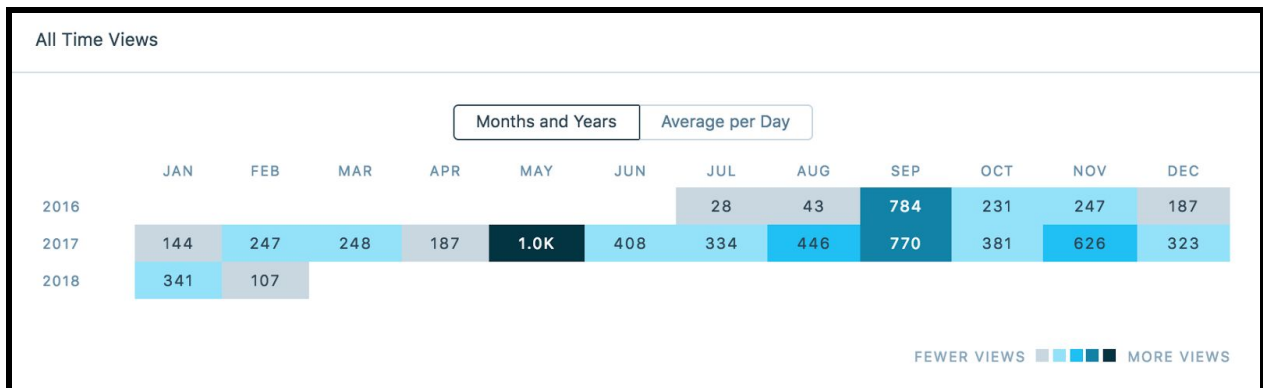
- In 2016, the site was viewed was viewed 1,528 times by 458 unique visitors.
- When the Editorial Board met in 2017, a total of 1,156 unique visitors had visited the site 2,396 times.
- By the end of 2017, a total of 2,573 unique visitors visited the site 5,160 times.
- In 2017, people visited the site from 79 countries. The table below breaks down visitors by the top 20 most common countries.
- The top 5 most popular new content in 2017:
 - *The Activists' Guide to Archiving Video* - 424 unique visits
 - Blogs page that lists all SAA blogs in one place - 363 unique visits
 - *Digitizing Orphan Works* - 299 visits
 - *Exploring Chicago Collections* - 268 unique visits
 - *The Digital Repository of Ireland* - 208 unique visits
- So far in 2018, 218 unique visitors have visited the reviews portal 448 times (as of February 7, 2018).

Average Views Per Day by Month and Year



Data Captured on February 7, 2018

All Time Views by Month and Year



Data Captured on February 7, 2018

2017 Visitors by Top 20 Countries

Rank	Country	Visitors	Rank	Country	Visitors
1	United States	4,022	11	Spain	30
2	Canada	166	12	South Africa	29
3	Australia	125	13	Italy	23
4	United Kingdom	80	14	Japan	21
5	Brazil	61	15	Sweden	18
6	China	47	16	Hong Kong	17
7	Ireland	44	17	Czech Republic	16
8	Germany	33	18	Taiwan	16
9	France	33	19	Netherlands	16
10	South Korea	33	20	Greece	16

Data Captured on February 7, 2018